

a3
cancel
for a user, and in the third state the available
functionality is extended.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 16-18 have been amended to clarify the features of the invention. The amendments are supported in the specification, for example, on page 1, lines 19-20, page 2, line 4, page 3, line 22, the description of Figures 1-4, and on page 13, line 25.

The Abstract was objected to because "Fig. 1" was included below the text. The Abstract has been amended to remove "Fig. 1."

A marked-up version of the rewritten section and claims is attached hereto.

Claims 1-7 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kikinis (US 5,220,521).

Claim 1 is directed to an electronic input device including a flexible input means and a housing for accommodating the flexible input means. The electronic input device has three states where the flexible input means adopts a compacted spatial configuration in the first state, a partly extended spatial configuration in the second state, and a fully extended spatial configuration in the third state.

The electronic input device is configured to be moved from the first state into the second state by movement of a first portion of the electronic input device in relation to a second portion of the electronic input device in a first direction, and the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the second state into the third state by a sliding movement of a

third portion of the electronic input device in a second direction being different than the first direction.

In the second state, the flexible input means adopts a partly extended spatial configuration and at least part of the functionality of the electronic input device is available for a user, and in the third state the flexible input means adopts a fully extended spatial configuration and the available functionality is extended.

Kikinis discloses a computer keyboard molded from flexible material and rollable into a cylinder.

Applicants respectfully submit that Kikinis fails to disclose or suggest a housing for accommodating the flexible input means device, fails to disclose or suggest an electronic input device having three states, and fails to disclose or suggest movement from the first to second and second to third states as described in claim 1. In addition, Kikinis fails to disclose or suggest a partly and fully extended spatial configuration where at least part of the functionality of the device is available and the available functionality is extended, respectively.

The Office Action refers to column 2, lines 7-10 as disclosing a housing. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that these lines express the desirability of keyboard "that could be folded or rolled into a small and portable package" and that the word "package" refers to the shape of the keyboard itself and not to a housing for accommodating a flexible input device. The cited portion of Kikinis discloses a keyboard rolled into a cylinder, whereas a housing as disclosed in claim 1 of the present application is an element separate from a keyboard (input means). In other words, the keyboard of the present invention

is an element of an input device which device also comprises the housing inside of which the keyboard may be placed.

Also, Kikinis merely discloses an input means (the keyboard), whereas the present application teaches a whole input device of which the flexible input means is only a part.

Applicants find no disclosure in Kikinis related to an electronic input device having three states, and find no disclosure related to the movements described in claim 1 for moving from the first to second and second to third states. In addition, there is no disclosure in Kikinis related to a partly or fully extended spatial configuration of the flexible input means where at least part of the functionality of the device is available in the partly extended configuration, and the available functionality is extended in the fully extended configuration.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Kikinis fails to anticipate claim 1.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and therefore are also not anticipated by Kikinis.

Claim 16 is directed to a method for manufacturing an electronic input device with features similar to those described by claim 1. Therefore, for the same reasons supporting claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is not anticipated by Kikinis.

Claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis in view of Kinya et al. (JP 04-17684).

Kinya et al. discloses a flexible display medium that may be rolled up into a housing. However, like Kikinis, Kinya et al. fails to disclose or suggest an electronic input device having three states. Kinya also fails to disclose or suggest the movements described in claim 1 for moving from the first to second and second to third states. Furthermore, Kinya fails to disclose or suggest a partly or fully extended spatial configuration of the flexible input means, where at least part of the functionality of the device is available in the partly extended configuration, and the available functionality is extended in the fully extended configuration.

Because both Kikinis and Kinya et al. fail to disclose or suggest these features, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kikinis and Kinya et al. does not render claims 8-11 unpatentable.

Claims 12-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis and Kinya et al., and further in view of Furuya et al. (JP 06-164440).

Furuya et al. discloses communication equipment having hinges. However, like Kikinis and Kinya et al., Furuya et al. has no disclosure related to an electronic input device having three states. Furuya et al. also has no disclosure related to the movements described in claim 1 for moving from the first to second and second to third states. In addition, Furuya et al. fails to disclose or suggest a partly or fully extended spatial configuration of the flexible input means, where at least part of the functionality of the device is available in the partly extended configuration, and the available functionality is extended in the fully extended configuration.

Because Kikinis, Kinya et al., and Furuya et al. all fail to disclose or suggest these features, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Kikinis, Kinya et al., and Furuya et al. fails to render claims 12-15 unpatentable.

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kinya et al.

Claims 17 and 18 are directed to method claims related to an electronic input device with features similar to those of claim 1. As mentioned above, Kinya et al. fails to disclose or suggest an electronic input device having three states. Kinya also fails to disclose or suggest the movements described in claim 1 for moving from the first to second and second to third states. Furthermore, Kinya fails to disclose or suggest a partly or fully extended spatial configuration of the flexible input means, where at least part of the functionality of the device is available in the partly extended configuration, and the available functionality is extended in the fully extended configuration.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17 and 18 are not anticipated by Kinya et al.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed for a 1 month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to



charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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Signature: Carolina Rodriguez
Person Making Deposit



Application No. 09/380,066

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Marked Up Specification Replacement Section

Please delete the section entitled "Abstract" (page 17) and replace with the following replacement section:

An electronic input device (MS) has a flexible keyboard (14) for receiving user input and a housing (10) defining a space for accommodating the keyboard. The input device has a compacted state and an extended state. The keyboard adopts a compacted spatial configuration in the compacted state and adopts an extended spatial configuration in the second state. In the compacted state the keyboard is wound on a roll. The input device additionally has a retractable, flexible display having corresponding compacted and extended states so that both the keyboard and the display can be rolled in and out together.

~~Fig. 1.~~

Marked Up Claim(s)

Please replace the following claims as rewritten below:

1. (Amended) An electronic input device comprising:

a flexible input means for receiving user input; and

a housing defining a space for accommodating said flexible input means₊, wherein said electronic input device has a first state, ~~and~~ a second state₊ and a third state, and

wherein the flexible input means adopts a compacted spatial configuration in the first state, and adopts a partly extended spatial configuration in the second state, and adopts a fully extended spatial configuration in the third state, and

wherein the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the first state into the second state by movement of a first portion of the electronic input device in relation to a second portion of the electronic input device in a first direction, and the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the second state into the third state by a sliding movement of a third portion of the electronic input device in a second direction being different than the first direction, and

wherein in the second state the flexible input means adopts a partly extended spatial configuration and at least part of the functionality of the electronic input device is available for a user, and in the third state the flexible input means adopts a fully extended spatial configuration and the available functionality is extended.

16. (Amended) A method for manufacturing ~~of~~ an electronic input device comprising ~~the steps of~~:

forming to the electronic input device a housing to define a space for accommodating a flexible input means; and

inserting ~~at~~ the flexible input means in a compacted spatial configuration at least partially into said space; and

configuring the electronic input device and the flexible input means so that the flexible input means adopts a

compacted spatial configuration in a first state of the electronic input device, adopts a partly extended spatial configuration in a second state of the electronic input device, and adopts a fully extended spatial configuration in a third state of the electronic input device; and

configuring the electronic input device to be moved from the first state into the second state by movement of a first portion of the electronic input device in relation to a second portion of the electronic input device in a first direction, and to be moved from the second state into the third state by a sliding movement of a third portion of the electronic input device in a second direction being different than the first direction,

wherein in the second state at least part of the functionality of the electronic input device is available for a user, and in the third state the available functionality is extended.

17. (Amended) A method for manufacturing of an electronic input device comprising ~~the steps of:~~

forming to the electronic input device a housing to define a space for accommodating a flexible input means;

shaping the flexible input means into a compacted spatial configuration; ~~and~~

inserting the flexible input means at least partially into said space so that the flexible input means maintains the compacted spatial configuration in a first state of the electronic input device, adopts a partly extended spatial configuration in a second state of the electronic input

device, and adopts a fully extended spatial configuration in a third state of the electronic input device; and

configuring the electronic input device to be moved from the first state into the second state by movement of a first portion of the electronic input device in relation to a second portion of the electronic input device in a first direction, and to be moved from the second state into the third state by a sliding movement of a third portion of the electronic input device in a second direction being different than the first direction,

wherein in the second state at least part of the functionality of the electronic input device is available for a user, and in the third state the available functionality is extended.

18. (Amended) A method of an electronic input device presenting a user interface, ~~comprising the steps of:~~

storing a flexible input means in a compacted spatial configuration within a housing of the electronic input device in a first state of the electronic input device;

extending the flexible input means out of the housing into ~~an~~ one or more of a partly extended spatial configuration in a second state of the electronic input device, and a fully extended spatial configuration in a third state of the electronic input device, the partly and fully extended spatial configurations for receiving user input; and

retrieving the flexible input means again into the compacted spatial configuration within the housing,

wherein the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the first state into the second state by movement of a first portion of the electronic input device in relation to a second portion of the electronic input device in a first direction, and the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the second state into the third state by a sliding movement of a third portion of the electronic input device in a second direction being different than the first direction,

wherein in the second state at least part of the functionality of the electronic input device is available for a user, and in the third state the available functionality is extended.